

1609/1605
H. B. Wright

MINUTES
of a
PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE,
held in
THE TEMPLE, AT KIGHLEY.



MINUTES
of a
PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

of the MEMBERS of the

New Church,

signified by

THE NEW JERUSALEM,

in the

Revelation,

held in

THE TEMPLE

at

KIGHLEY,

ON THE FIFTH AND SIXTH DAYS OF SEPTEMBER,

1791—35.



BRADFORTH,
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MINUTES
of a
PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE, &c.

Monday, September 5, 1791.—35.

AGREEABLE to the recommendation of the General Conference held in London, this society met, and proceeded to business, the meeting being first opened with prayer by Mr. Leadbeater, from Chester.

The Reverend Joseph Wright having proposed Mr. John Hoyle, of Washerlane near Halifax, as a proper person to act as president, he was unanimously elected, and Mr. Joseph Gumersale of Birmingham, secretary.

It was then proposed by Mr. John Hoyle, that a committee be appointed to expedite the business of the present Provincial Conference, and that they should withdraw for the purpose of considering of, and proposing such things as may be thought necessary.

The meeting then proceeded, and the following persons were unanimously elected as committee, viz.

Mr. Charles Worral Leadbeater, Chester.

Joseph Hamerton, Brighouse near Halifax.

Joseph Wright, Kighley.

Richard Scofield, Whitefield near Bury, Lancashire.

John Bostick, Bolton in Lancashire.

James Haggas, Kighley.

William Waterhouse, Bramhope near Otley.

} Committee.

Who accordingly withdrew for that purpose. The committee report by Mr. Leadbeater, that several letters were received and read, which were very satisfactory, and are as follow, viz.

A letter from Dr. Tucker of Hull; a letter from Mr. Joseph Proud of Birmingham; a letter from Mr. Joseph Hamerton of Brighouse; a letter from Mr. William Hill of Wolverhampton, then at Liverpool; likewise a printed plan for organization, recommended by Frederic Nordonskjold, Esq. superintendent of his Majesty's mines in Sweden, which having been read by the committee, it was by them thought proper to be read in Conference, which was done accordingly; but, after due deliberation thereon, it was thought that the state of the New Church in this part of the kingdom is such, that it will not bear its being adopted at present, as such it was rejected.



The meeting then concluded with prayer, by Mr. Leadbeater, and adjourned 'til four o'clock in the afternoon.

Met agreeable to adjournment; and the meeting opened with the Lord's prayer, by Mr. Leadbeater.

A motion was then made, and the sense of the meeting was taken, viz. Whether the preachers in the New Church ought to have salaries for their ministry? Much was said thereon, and after the question was stated by the president, it was the opinion of the majority present, that they ought *not*.

It is the unanimous opinion of this Conference, that marriages ought to be consecrated in the *New Church*; it is therefore recommended to the GENERAL Conference, that they produce a form accordingly, and pass an order, that no marriages be consecrated in the NEW CHURCH, but upon those who can produce certificates of their having been first married agreeable to the National Law.

It is also the unanimous opinion of this Conference, that no minister in the New Church ought to baptize any adult person, without the consent of the society into which the person solicits to become a member.

And we further recommend it to every society, that a proper time be taken to deliberate on, and inquire into the character of the person proposed.

The meeting then concluded with prayer by the Rev. Joseph Wright, and adjourned 'til next morning at nine o'clock.

Tuesday, September 6.

Met agreeable to adjournment, and the meeting was opened with the Lord's prayer, by the Rev. Joseph Wright.

The following minute was then read and proposed; and, after mature deliberation, was passed unanimously: which is as follows, viz. From an earnest desire to be useful to the rising societies, we recommend it to them, as soon as they consist of seven members, that they choose a president to preside over their meetings, and a secretary to record them, and correspond with other societies; in order to cement that union which we trust, under the LORD's blessing, will always reign in his NEW CHURCH; and also a treasurer, to take care of their contributions, that they may be enabled to assist those members who are afflicted with sickness or other distresses. We recommend it to them, that they make a monthly subscription, each person contributing such a sum as they can with propriety spare; the amount to be looked over, and entered into a book kept solely for that purpose by the secretary, who shall likewise enter all sums paid by the treasurer for books, or the relief of such members as need it; and if it should so happen, at the time of the GENERAL Conference holden in London, there is a fund sufficient, that they meet and depute such a person as they may think most qualified for that important service; and each member so deputed, shall have his expences borne out of the society's stock, if sufficient: Should their

fund not prove so, they are recommended to write to one or more of the nearest societies, to meet them at the most convenient time and place, for the purpose of chusing a representative who shall go at the mutual expence of the different societies; and such society or societies should give the brother so deputed a letter, signed by their respective president or presidents, and sealed with their seal, that the Conference may know that they are members of the New Church.

It is also recommended by this conference, that if a member of *any* society, should wish at his own expence to attend the Conferences, he shall have a letter from the society of which he is a member, signed by the president.

It is likewise recommended to the different societies that they hold a monthly meeting, independent of their weekly reading meetings, for the regulating the temporal concerns of their respective societies.

And it is further recommended to the different societies, by this Conference, that they attend, (by their deputies) the Provincial Conferences, in order to prepare such subjects as they may wish to lay before General Conference.

It is also thought necessary by this Conference, to recommend to the different societies, that they transmit to the printer of the Magazine of Knowledge concerning heaven and hell, the names of such persons as they choose for their president, secretary, and treasurer, in order to open a correspondence between all the societies, and thereby the whole may be cemented together into one body.

The Rev. Joseph Wright was of opinion, that this Provincial Conference ought to recommend to the General Conference in London, that they pay a particular attention to the letter from Harry Gandy, Esq. of Bristol; the society at Kighley, being clearly of opinion with him, that a new translation of the Holy Word is absolutely necessary. The sense of the Conference being obtained, it was unanimous.

It was also unanimously resolved, that this Province shall consist (for the present) of the counties of York, Lancashire, and Cheshire; and that, in some part of this Province, there shall be a General or Provincial Meeting held every six months.

The minutes of last *General Conference* were then read, duly deliberated on, and confirmed, except at the beginning of the fifth page, where it is said, that singing may be adapted to every affection of the human MIND; and likewise, where it is said, that the London society was the first that was publicly known to separate from the Old Church, in the Christian world.

It was determined by a majority of this Conference, that it be recommended to the General Conference, that the word *good* be added to the first, and *orderly* to the second.

From the most mature deliberation, the members of this Conference are unanimously of opinion, that the preceding minutes are not in the least degree whatever BINDING, to any particular society, being only the result of that light they at present possess: therefore, in matters of more interior concerns, they think it

highly necessary to leave every society to their own guidance, and to adopt such rules as *they* may think most proper.

It was then unanimously resolved, that this Conference be adjourned 'til the first Wednesday in March 1792—36, and to be removed to the Temple adjoining the house of Mr. John Hoyle, Washerlane, near Halifax.

The Conference next proceeded to elect a standing committee that should have the care and management of all the concerns of the Province 'til the next Conference, to be held at the Temple, Washerlane, near Halifax. The following persons were then unanimously elected, viz.

James Haggas, President.

Joseph Vicars, Secretary.

Abram Maud, Treasurer.

John Hoyle.

John Simms.

Joseph Wright.

Joseph Hamerton.

Samuel Hamerton.

Abram Butterfield.

Henry Arnot.

Shelah Haggas.

John Overend.

} Committee.

Or any seven of them to meet occasionally, 'til next Conference (as the concerns of the societies may require), at which time and place, they, or any seven of them are expected to attend, and resign that power and trust they at present possess.

The Conference then concluded with a prayer for the prosperity of the New Church, being adjourned to the time and place above mentioned.

Signed in behalf of the Conference by
John Hoyle, Washerlane, near Halifax, President.
Joseph Gumersale, Birmingham, Secretary.

Charles Leadbeater, Chester.	}	Committee.
Joseph Hamerton, Brighthouse.		
Joseph Wright, Kighley.		
Richard Scofield, Whitefield, near Bury.		
John Bostick, Bolton, Lancashire.		
James Haggas, Kighley.		
William Waterhouse, Bramhope, near Otley.		

*KIGHLEY TEMPLE, September 6, in the
year of our LORD's first Advent,
1791, and of his second, 35.*

P. S. It is requested, that the members of the next Provincial Conference delegate such persons to the General Conference, from their respective societies, as to them may seem most proper.

